Review of SEZ policy

3670. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy to provide clarity to the policy, following protests against acquisition of agricultural land for industrialization under the said scheme;

(b)if so, the details of the reviewed and revised SEZ policy; and

(c) the steps since taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Various issues cocerning the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy have been considered by the Government and it has been decided that applications for SEZs may be processed for in principle & formal approvals and notifications subject to the condition that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs. Further, it has been decided to fix the upper limit of the area required for multi product SEZs at 5000 hectares with the provision that the State Governments may prescribe a lower limit. Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address all relevant issues and also to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

Import of pulses

3671. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pulses have been imported in substantial quantity;

(b) if so, the details of volume of various pulses imported year-wise since 2002-03 till 31st March, 2007;

(c) the details of exports, if any, of pulses during the same period,

indicating year-wise volumes of each type and value in terms of US $ and equivalent INR;

(d) the year-wise details of the number of entities engaged in import of pulses and those engaged in its export during the period; and

(e) the details of Central levies on import and export of pulses during the period from 2003-04 till 31st March, 2007 indicating the revisions effected, if any, therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The quantity and value of Pulses imported/exported are as under:

	Export			Import	
Period	Quantity in Tonnes	Value (Rs. crore)	Value (US$ Million)	Quantity in Tonnes	Value (Rs. crore)
2002-03	151,335	351	73	1,992,853	2,737
2003-04	153,873	328	71	1,723,330	2,285
2004-05	271,180	602	134	1,339,442	1,777
2005-06	447,440	1,115	252	1,696,327	2,477
2006-07	182,494	547	119	1,464,139	2,396

*The data is up to November, 2006 for Import and October, 2006 for export.

The category-wise import/export details of pulses are given in the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Volume-I (Exports) and Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which are available in the library of the Parliament.

(d) The number of transactions in import/export of pulses are as under:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Export	5766	6802	9505	13108	5154
Import	9552	10305	7269	9098	6358

*The data is up to November, 2006 for Import and October, 2006 for export.

(e) The basic customs duty on pulses was 10% during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and for part of 2006-07. With effect from 8th June, 2006 pulses have been fully exempted from customs duty.

Human Rights Meet on SEZs

3672. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media report titled Rights meet to focus on SEZs in Asia; if so, whether Government have received an invitation to attend the proposed meet on SEZs and human rights;

(b) whether Government have noted the concern of SAARC activists on poor farmers and Backward Classes suffering due to SEZs;

(c) the steps proposed to review the human rights violations of farmers affected by SEZs; and

(d) the details of steps being proposed to reduce human rights violations of poor and Backward Class farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per available information, no such invitation has been received.

(b) to (d) Various issues and petitions concerning the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy have been considered by the Government and it has been decided that pending applications for SEZs may be processed for in principle & formal approvals and notifications subject to the condition that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs. Further, it has been decided to fix the upper limit of the area required for multi products SEZs at 5000 hectares with the provision that the State Governments may prescribe a lower limit and to fix the minimum processing area limit uniformly at 50% for multi product SEZs as well as sector specific SEZs. Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address